



OCTOBER 2024

# IMPROVE I-70 MONTHLY REPORT

Missouri's FY2024 budget passed by the General Assembly and signed into law by Gov. Mike Parson provides \$2.8 billion in General Revenue for the costs to plan, design, construct, reconstruct, rehabilitate and repair three lanes in each direction on nearly 200 miles of Interstate 70, from Blue Springs to Wentzville.

STAY IN THE KNOW: [www.modot.org/improvei70](http://www.modot.org/improvei70)



## COLUMBIA TO KINGDOM CITY: FIRST CONCRETE POUR OF THE THIRD LANE

Crews with the Columbia to Kingdom City Improve I-70 project have started pouring the first section of concrete for what will be the third lane and inside shoulder of westbound I-70. This marks the first of many nights of pouring concrete for the new lane beginning at Callaway County Route M and working their way to Callaway County Route J. Crews will then turn around and pave the new eastbound I-70 lane in this area. The contractor, Millstone Weber, has elected to use concrete on the entire stretch of the 20-mile project providing three lanes of brand new pavement. **WATCH the highlights with the QR code or at: <https://youtu.be/U9CGbk4wn18>**

Early next year, traffic will utilize these new lanes as the contractor works to rebuild the existing two lanes of eastbound I-70 followed by the existing westbound lanes of I-70 between Callaway County Routes J and M. The pavement thickness for all of the lanes on I-70 in the first project will be 11" concrete pavement with a durable base material to help with drainage and support for the concrete.



*Crews conducted the first concrete pour of Improve I-70: Columbia to Kingdom City on October 21, 2024 just west of Callaway County Route M. See more photos of construction progress at <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBBZry>.*

## INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS BEGIN AT I-70 AND U.S. ROUTE 63

Traffic on U.S. Route 63 in Columbia successfully switched to a head-to-head configuration this month. This new traffic pattern will be in place for roughly 10 months as construction crews build two new bridges as part of Improve I-70: Columbia to Kingdom City and the overall redesign for the Interstate 70 and U.S. Route 63 interchange.

All Route 63 traffic between the Broadway overpass and the Conley Road underpass is currently pushed on to the northbound Route 63 lanes. Both directions of Route 63 briefly narrow to one lane when entering the section where traffic is pushed to one side, then it reopens to two lanes each direction.



*Traffic shift needed to build this future Business Route 63 underpass.*



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These new bridges will create an underpass allowing traffic from Conley Road to move north directly into the I-70/U.S. Route 63 interchange. Building the two bridges is expected to take around 10 months. Construction crews are building the southbound bridge first, with all traffic on the northbound lanes. Once that bridge is complete, traffic will be switched to the new southbound bridge while the northbound bridge is constructed.



Route 63 traffic in temporary configuration for bridge construction.

## SAVING THE SEDGE: BRISTLED CYPERUS SETIGER ON I-70



MoDOT Environmental Specialists and the Missouri Department of Conservation work to safely relocate a rare plant species along the I-70 corridor.

MoDOT's Environmental Team, in coordination with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) recently relocated some rare plants along I-70 in Columbia. The lean flatsedge (*Cyperus setiger*), is ranked as critically imperiled by the Missouri Natural Heritage Program. While it is not state or federally endangered, it is very rare for Missouri. There are only two known documented remnant populations in Missouri (Tucker Prairie and along I-70) and a third relocated population at Prairie Fork Conservation Area. *Cyperus setiger* is native and more abundant in some other states such as Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas.

To combat any potential threats to this species, MODOT and MDC coordinated in June 2023 to discuss relocation plans with the Prairie Fork Conservation Area. This month, the teams met on site to dig up and clean the plants. For the time being, they will be planted in greenhouse pots to keep over the winter until they are ready to be transplanted in 2025. By relocating these plants to a nearby suitable site in Callaway County, MoDOT and MDC aim to protect and preserve the species as they contribute to biological and ecological diversity.

MoDOT hopes that by promoting and preserving rare plant and animal species through unique and innovative opportunities like this one, MoDOT can continue to build and maintain positive partnerships with state and federal resource agencies and strive to build projects to fulfill MoDOT's mission to provide a world-class transportation system that is safe, innovative, reliable, and dedicated to a prosperous Missouri.



## IMPROVE I-70 WARRENTON TO WENTZVILLE BEST VALUE-PROPOSER SELECTION DATE RESCHEDULED TO NOV. 8

The Best-Value proposer for the \$600 million Design-Build project, Improve I-70: Warrenton to Wentzville, will be selected at the November Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission meeting. This has been rescheduled to 9 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 8, and will be at the Hotel St. Louis located at 705 Olive St. in St. Louis, MO or via live stream by visiting [www.modot.org/mhtc/live](http://www.modot.org/mhtc/live). For more information on Improve I-70: Warrenton to Wentzville, please visit [www.modot.org/improvei70/warrentonwentzville](http://www.modot.org/improvei70/warrentonwentzville).